U.S. Application Number 09/824,551 Attorney Docket Number 021123-0280106

II. REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, the applicants have canceled claim 31, without prejudice. The applicants do not intend by these or any amendments to abandon subject matter of the claims as originally filed or later presented, and reserve the right to pursue such subject matter in continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Thomas A. Cawley, Jr., Ph.D.

Reg. No.: 40,944

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2144 Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

TAC/PAJ 1600 Tysons Boulevard McLean, VA 22102 (703) 905-2000